## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1. A modular cornice system, comprising:
  2 at least one substantially rigid face section;
  3 at least one substantially rigid return section having a connector configured to
  4 couple the return section and the face section; and
  5 at least one retainer on the face section configured to engage a breeket for
- at least one retainer on the face section configured to engage a bracket for attaching the cornice system to a mounting surface.
- 1 2. The system of Claim 1 wherein the face section further comprises a 2 front side having a contoured surface and a back side.
- The system of Claim 2 further comprising at least one slot-like opening extending at least partially along the front side and configured to retain a cover material applied over at least a portion of the face section.
- 1 4. The system of Claim 3 further comprising at least one slot-like opening
  2 extending at least partially along the back side and configured to retain the cover
  3 material.
  - 5. The system of Claim 3 wherein the cover material comprises one or more fabric or textile materials.
- 1 6. The system of Claim 1 further comprising at least one trim member configured to connect with at least one of the face section and the return section.
- 7. The system of Claim 6 wherein the trim member is a plurality of trim member segments.
- 1 8. The system of Claim 6 wherein the trim member further comprises a 2 projection configured to engage an opening on at least one of the face section and 3 return section.

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- 9. The system of Claim 1 wherein the return section further comprises separate interconnectable pieces.
- 10. The system of Claim 1 wherein the at least one substantially rigid face section is two or more interconnectable face sections.
- 1 11. The system of Claim 10 further comprising at least one connector configured to interconnect the two or more face sections.
- 1 12. The system of Claim 1 wherein the retainer further comprises a projection configured to slidably engage the bracket.
- 1 13. A modular decorating system for use with at least one cover material, 2 comprising:
- an elongated member having a front side with a contoured surface and a back side;
- return members having at least one connector configured to couple with opposite ends of the elongated member in a substantially U shaped configuration;
- at least one substantially nondeformable opening on at least one of the front side and the back side configured to receive a portion of the cover material;
- so that the cover material may be applied over at least a portion of the elongated member to conform to the contoured surface.
- 1 14. The system of Claim 13 wherein the cover material is selected from the 2 group consisting of a coating, a paint, a stain, a wallpaper, a fabric, a textile material, 3 and an appliqué.
- 1 15. The system of Claim 14 wherein the cover material is a fabric configured to be at least partially tucked into the opening.
- 1 16. The system of Claim 13 wherein the contoured surface further comprises at least one arched section.
- 1 17. The system of Claim 16 wherein the opening comprises a slot-like opening adjacent the arched section.

- 1 18. The system of Claim 17 wherein the opening further comprises a pair of slot-like openings on the back side.
- 1 19. The system of Claim 13 further comprising an insert member configured to engage the opening.
- 1 20. The system of Claim 19 wherein the insert member is formed 2 substantially in a T shape and configured to tuck the cover material into the opening.
- 1 21. The system of Claim 13 further comprising at least one trim piece 2 having a decorative profile and coupled to at least one of the elongated member and 3 the return member.
- 1 22. The system of Claim 21 wherein the at least one trim piece comprises 2 multiple trim piece segments.
- 1 23. The system of Claim 13 wherein at least one of the elongated member 2 and return member further comprise a textured surface.
  - 24. The system of Claim 13 further comprising at least one projection extending from the back side and configured to slidably engage a bracket for movably mounting the elongated member to a mounting surface.
- 1 25. The system of Claim 13 wherein the return members further comprise 2 tabs configured to support the contoured surface when the return members are 3 coupled to the elongated members.
- 1 26. A commercial product in the form of a kit for a modular cornice 2 system, comprising:
- at least one substantially rigid face panel having a front side with a contoured surface and at least one opening, and a back side with at least one opening; and
- side panels having an integrally formed connector configured to interconnect with the face panel.

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- 1 27. The commercial product of Claim 26 further comprising instructions.
- 1 28. The commercial product of Claim 26 wherein the at least one opening 2 comprises a slot and a cavity.
- 1 29. The commercial product of Claim 28 wherein the cavity comprises a 2 generally cylindrical shape configured to receive at least one cover material tucked 3 through the slot.
- 1 30. The commercial product of Claim 26 wherein the at least one 2 substantially rigid face panel is two or more face panels that are configured to 3 interconnect.
- 1 31. The commercial product of Claim 30 further comprising a connector configured to join the face panels.
- 1 32. The commercial product of Claim 31 wherein the connector is a 2 substantially cylindrical member configured to engage corresponding structure on the 3 face panels.
- 1 33. The commercial product of Claim 26 wherein the face panel is 2 configured to be cut to a desired length by a user.
- 1 34. The commercial product of Claim 26 further comprising at least one 2 trim member configured to connect with the at least one of the face panel and the side 3 panel.
- 1 35. The commercial product of Claim 26 further comprising at least one clip for securing a cover material to the side panel.
- 1 36. The commercial product of Claim 26 wherein the side panel comprises 2 separate pieces that may be coupled by connectors so that a gap exists between the 3 separate pieces.

- 1 37. The commercial product of Claim 36 wherein the separate pieces have 2 a contour configured to form a contoured surface that generally corresponds to the 3 contoured surface of the face panel when the pieces are coupled by the connectors.
  - 38. A cornice system, comprising:

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- at least one first panel having a contoured surface and at least one substantially inflexible slot-like opening; and
- at least two second panels having a first end with at least one connector for coupling the second panel to the first panel; and
- a retainer on the first panel configured to movably mount the first panel and the second panel to a mounting surface.
- 1 39. The system of Claim 38 further comprising a cover material applied at least partially over at least one of the first panel and the second panels.
- 1 40. The system of Claim 39 wherein the cover material is selected from the 2 group consisting of a coating, a paint, a stain, a wallpaper, a fabric, a textile material, 3 and an appliqué.
- 1 41. The system of Claim 40 wherein the slot-like opening comprises a cavity configured to receive and retain the cover material.
  - 42. The system of Claim 41 further comprising an insert member configured to insert the cover material through the slot-like opening.
- 1 43. The system of Claim 42 wherein the insert member is a substantially T 2 shaped member configured to remain within the slot-like opening.
- 1 44. The system of Claim 38 further comprising at least one trim member 2 configured to connect to at least one of a top or a bottom of the first panel.
  - 45. The system of Claim 44 wherein the trim member comprises a gap configured to retain a portion of a cover material.

- 1 46. The system of Claim 44 wherein the trim member comprises a side 2 panel connectible to the second panel.
- 1 47. The system of Claim 38 wherein the at least one substantially
  2 inflexible slot-like opening comprises at least two openings on a front side of the first
  3 panel so that a cover material tucked within the openings may be conformed to the
  4 contoured surface.
- 1 48. The system of Claim 47 wherein the at least one substantially
  2 inflexible slot-like opening comprises at least two openings on a back side of the first
  3 panel so that a cover material tucked within the openings may be conformed around a
  4 top and a bottom of the first panel.
- 1 49. The system of Claim 38 wherein the first panel, the slot-like opening 2 and the retainer are integrally formed as a single extruded member.
- 1 50. The system of Claim 38 wherein at least one of the first panel and the second panel are formed from a plastic material.